

# AGE-FRIENDLY TRANSPORTATION WORKGROUP MINUTES



**Date:** 03/10/2020

**Time:** 03:08PM

**Facilitator:** Terri Hansen

## In Attendance

**Brad Closs**

**Bruce Fulton**

**Brian Muldon**

**Micheal Butler**

**Paul Verchinski**

**Manuel Evangelista**

**Nancy Riley**

**Marian Vessel**

Motioned to Approve: Paul Verchinski

Seconded: Bruce Fulton

## Announcements

- Micheal Bulter join us – intern from Long Reach High School
- New member, Nancy Riley, is the Director of Social Day Program at North Laurel 55+ center and attended paratransit meetings with Terri Hansen in the past
- The survey analysis is being worked on and should be out end of March beginning of April
- Looking to have at least 6 listening sessions – starting mid-April through May (depending on the coronavirus affect on this)
- A member asked if the listening sessions will be throughout the County and suggested that the Health and Wellness at Monarch Mills could be used as a listening session – April 30<sup>th</sup> 1 to 3pm.
- Focus groups will use specific questions that did not appear on the survey.
  - Focus groups will consist of small groups, no more than 15 people.
  - Listening sessions would be larger groups of people and could be targeted to certain groups such as all men (women responded the most to the survey), low income, minorities, etc.
- If you have a burning question, please don't hesitate to let Terri Hansen know by email or calling so they can be incorporated into the upcoming focus groups.

- We have received about 100 Spanish speaking surveys; a member of another group was able to take to St. Johns Parish to hand out.
- Analysis of past reports such as Columbia Association 2014, DCRS 2015, Transportation 2018, and others will be combined into one master report which should be out by the middle of April.

## Discussion

- Co-chairs will be deciding how to structure workgroup sessions
- It was suggested that using the action plans in the AARP website, we could use a jurisdiction that is close in size and type to Howard County. Take parts from that and use those ideas.

A discussion/brainstorming session was started to help focus the workgroup on its vision. The following information was developed to help develop a vision statement.

- A member noted that Howard County's public transportation seems to be a focused in certain areas of the county. Ridership seems to be less the further out (west) in the county you go.
- Would like to see a better service in high density areas.
- Is there a way to service people who live further out?
- There is a lot of growth going on in Elkridge
- As a group we will want to enhance the services we currently have, A vision could be expansion (something to reach for).
  - Enhance current service
  - Enhance access to where there is currently no service
- Need to be careful on how we define mobility and transit.
- A member suggested our vision should be transportation for the whole community
- Add sidewalks where we don't currently have them
  - Improve what already exists.
- Could Uber, lift or Neighbor Ride provide services for people who don't currently drive
  - RTA Mobility can be costly currently \$8.00 a roundtrip and will be increase to \$10.00. Seniors who are on a fixed income may not be able to use this service
- It was noted that Neighbor Ride needs to be scheduled way in advance
- Need to have safe and affordable service for all non-drivers within the County.
- Residents should be our focus.
- Where there is a fixed route how can we make it better?
- Across the County how do we make it better? (Aging in place) transportation has not addressed the Aging in Place or Aging in Community concept
- From the minutes last month, do we work with what is already out there?
  - Need to know what is already out there
  - Need to identify where the gaps are
  - What will be the base data we will be working with?
  - Plan Howard and Bike Howard – pull those resources and see where we are now.
- Need to expand accessible transportation to the entire county.
- The vision could have bulletin points

- The mission should explain what our works goals are.
- It was suggested we could write goals first and then vision statement. Focus on:
  - Education
  - Policy change
  - Transportation
  - Safety
- Would it be helpful to focus on getting funding?
- We will use the Age-Friendly lens to enhance access for all. This unique variable has not been addressed within the county.
- Have we equipped community members with knowledge of what transportation options exists?
  - Are there things that can be done by using education?
    - For example: How to ride public transportation
    - CarFit programs for older adults
- Need to have more user-friendly websites
- A member asked about the challenges experienced by Neighbor Ride. Bruce Fulton noted:
  - Long distance trips
  - Traffic
  - He also let everyone know that it is currently used mainly for medical appointments
- Pieces that could be missing:
  - Additional training for young drivers
  - Provide driving tips
  - How many older adults are driving and or using other means of transportation
- See if there is a way to get people more involved in better driving habits.
- Older adults who have smart phones, find a creative way to help them access different means of transportation.

Terri asked if it would be helpful to know what has been done in the county? What is in the works? And where the gaps are regarding transportation services. Everyone agreed they wanted an overall education about services. Bruce Gartner will begin by presenting on several programs next month,.

## Homework

- Spend some time working on what you feel should be the workgroups vision and mission statement.

## Next Meeting

04/14/2020 – 3:00 – 4:30pm at 9830 Patuxent Woods Drive